(vi) Improve social, nutritional and economic status of residents of comparatively more disadvantaged areas.

II. Strengthening Infrastructure for Quality and Clean Milk Production

Objectives:-

(i) Creation of necessary infrastructure for the production of good quality milk and milk products at the farmer's level up to the point of consumption.

(ii) Improvement of milking procedure at the farmers' level.

(iii) Training and strengthening of infrastructure to create mass awareness about importance of clean milk production.

III. Assistance to Cooperatives

Objectives:-

(i) Revitalization of sick dairy cooperatives unions at district level and cooperative federations at the State level.

IV. Dairy/Poultry Venture Capital Fund

Objectives:-

(i) To bring about structural changes in the unorganised sector by taking the measures like milk processing at village level and marketing of pasteurized milk in a cost effective manner.

(ii) To encourage quality up-gradation and up-gradation of traditional technology to handle commercial scale using modern equipment.

Survey of debt burden on marginal and poor farmers

1049. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey of debt burden on two categories of farmers, namely, marginal and poor, in the country, has been done;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) how much annual average interest the farmers have to pay on their debt;

(e) how average annual income of those farmers compares with their debt burden and average annual interest they have to pay;

(f) whether the debt burden on poor and marginal farmers is increasing and sourcing of their income decreasing day by day; and

(g) what conclusions Government have drawn from the above statistics, regarding the debt scenario and financial plight of a poor farmer?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) The National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) has conducted a survey to assess the indebtedness of farmer households in the country which, *inter alia,* includes information on distribution of indebted farmer households by size class of land possessed.

(b) State-wise details on distribution of indebted farmer households by size class of land possessed are given in the enclosed Statement. (*See* below).

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The existing information system of the banks does not capture this data. However, all the public sector banks have been advised to reduce their lending rate to a single digit rate of not more than 9% per annum on crop loans upto a ceiling of Rs. 50,000. This rate covers almost all the marginal and poor farmers.

(e) and (f) NSSO and banking system does not collect such comparable information.

(g) The NSSO Survey points out that the bank loan constitutes only 36% of outstanding loan amount of the indebted farmers and the farmers are still dependent on moneylenders for meeting their credit requirements. The Government has, therefore, initiated several measures for improving the access of institutional credit through various policy interventions.

Statement

Survey of Debt Burden on Marginal and Poor Farmers

Per 1000 distribution of indebted farmer households by size class of land possessed in different States

States	Size class of land possessed (in ha)								Estd. no.
	0.01	0.01-0.40	0.41-1.00		1.01-2.0	10.00	2.01	4.01-10.00	All sizes of indebted hhs(00)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Andhra Pradesh	4	192	361	218	151	66	7	1000	49493
Arunachal Pradesh	97	0	181	444	278	0	0	1000	72
Assam	3	332	371	208	81	5	0	1000	4536
Bihar	18	580	271	92	28	7	6	1000	23383
Chhatisgarh	1	114	331	306	169	75	4	1000	11092
Gujarat	46	161	250	217	183	132	11	1000	19644
Haryana	38	305	180	183	197	88	9	1000	10330
Himachal Pradesh	0	491	272	156	63	19	0	1000	3030
Jammu & Kashmir	0	358	371	137	126	9	0	1000	3003
Jharkhand	8	506	281	156	27	9	12	1000	5893
Karnataka	5	139	363	228	159	93	12	1000	24897
Kerala	0	662	215	91	26	5	1	1000	14126
Madhya Pradesh	4	80	246	271	231	130	39	1000	32110
Maharashtra	7	112	241	262	233	122	24	1000	36098
Manipur	0	483	318	186	11	2	0	1000	533
Meghalaya	0	69	676	157	118	0	0	1000	103
Mizoram	0	49	533	310	109	0	0	1000	184
Nagaland	20	71	554	337	17	0	0	1000	294
Orissa	3	235	465	206	73	17	0	1000	20250
Punjab	27	398	108	158	170	118	22	1000	12069
Rajasthan	10	175	254	198	178	141	45	1000	27828

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Sikkim	0	333	489	149	29	0	0	1000	174
Tamil Nadu	19	327	380	154	93	22	4	1000	28954
Tripura	10	402	535	53	0	0	0	1000	1148
Uttar Pradesh	25	399	289	174	78	34	3	1000	69199
Uttaranchal	3	451	273	212	59	0	0	1000	644
West Bengal	7	582	298	85	24	4	0	1000	34696
Group of UTs	30	516	202	116	97	32	8	1000	372
All-India	13	299	298	189	125	64	12	1000	434242
Estimated no. of households (00)	12594	292867	283610	160600	93504	42581	7748	893504	—
Estimated no. of indebted households (00)	5708	130112	129211	81920	54409	27734	5148	434242	—

Source: NSSO Survey Report No. 498 on "Indebtedness of farmer Households" (May 2005)

Improving yield and productivity

1050. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that nearly 600 million individuals are engaged in farming and over 80% of them belong to small and marginal farmer categories;

(b) whether there is any special package for small and marginal farmers to upgrade them from the said category and reduce the category of small and marginal farmers;

(c) whether despite all technological applications and practices; the yield per acre is much less of what can be achieved, if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether there will be an integrated approach to improve the yield and productivity?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Agriculture provides livelihood to about 650 millions people. Of these, about 79% belong to small and marginal farmer category.

(b) The Government is cognizant of the needs of the farming community including small and marginal farmers. To improve their conditions, a number of measures have been taken. These include easy and timely availability